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the photographs. Professor HOLDEN has handed these over to me for examination.

A good illustration of how unsatisfactory and unreliable eye sketches are, is again shown by comparing the sketches, so far published in the various scientific journals (and the one above mentioned) with these photographs. In the sketches there is apparently no law of distribution of coronal matter with reference to the Sun's equator, while in the photographs the general form of the corona is in agreement with the form predicted by means of the "Mechanical Theory," being characterized by great polar extension, causing a tendency towards a nearly circular outline. See *Lick Observatory Report on the Eclipse of December, 1889*, page 76, Table V, and Plate VI, Figures 5 and 8.

It is a significant fact, that while this eclipse took place near the time of the sun-spot minimum, the coronal form corresponds to the type of coronas which astronomers have quite generally considered as belonging to the times when the Sun is most spotted.

J. M. SCHAEBERLE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, November 6, 1896.

PROPOSED GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BY
MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST.

The daily papers of October 25th announce that it is the intention of Mrs. HEARST to present to the University of California two buildings to be erected at Berkeley. It is also said that it is Mrs. HEARST's intention to endow, at least, one of the colleges at Berkeley. A Board of Trustees has been appointed to carry out Mrs. HEARST's plans.

The university has long since outgrown its buildings; and there is probably no way in which its interests can be so efficiently furthered as by the provision of a group of buildings specially designed for their purposes and of high architectural excellence.

E. S. H.

October 26, 1896.

REQUEST FOR OBSERVATIONS OF COMET IV, 1895.

I have undertaken the definitive orbit of Comet IV, 1895, and shall be glad of any unpublished observations.

C. D. PERRINE.

MT. HAMILTON, October 19, 1896.

LIST OF AMERICAN LEARNED AND EDUCATIONAL SOCIETIES.

PREPARED BY DR. STEPHEN B. WEEKS.

The attention of members of the society is called to an excellent article with the foregoing title printed in Chapter XIII (pages 1493-1661) of Vol. II, of the *Report* of the United States Commissioner of Education, for the year 1893-94, just issued.

E. S. H.

SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PROFESSOR KAYSER.

We had the pleasure of a scientific visit from Professor KAYSER, of the University of Bonn, on October 5th, 6th, and 7th. The weather was excellent (except for smoke in the valleys from extensive forest fires) and representative of our usual summer conditions, and Professor KAYSER was able to see many objects of which observations have been made here, particularly the spectra of interesting and type objects.

E. S. H.

THE MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT AT
BAMBERG (1896)—GREETINGS TO THEIR
COLLEAGUES IN CALIFORNIA.

On October 7th, the mail brought a post-card addressed to the Lick Observatory inscribed as follows:

"From the XVI Astronomical Congress (Bamberg). Send Greetings."

"AUWERS, Dr. J. BAUSCHINGER, Prof. E. BECKER, Strassburg, MARTIN BRENDDEL, C. V. L. CHARLIER, F. COHN, Dr. G. EBERHARD, F. FOLIE, J. FRANZ, Dr. ERNST HARTWIG, Bamberg, J. HOLETSCHEK, P. KEMPF, OTTO KNOPF, Jena, H. KREUTZ, Editor ad. int. Ast. Nach., LEHMANN-FILHÉS, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. LEUSCHNER, Dr. MESSERSCHMITT, Zürich, M. NYRÉN, J. A. C. OUDEMANS, J. PALISA, C. F. PECHÜLE, Dr. M. SCHMIDT, R. SCHORR, Hamburg, W. SCHUR, Göttingen, H. SEELIGER, R. STEINHEIL, B. WANACH, Prof. Dr. E. WEISS, Vorsitzender, W. WINKLER, Jena, (and at least one more name not to be deciphered.)

These cordial greetings are highly welcome. They emphasize the fact that science has nothing to do with boundary lines.